

UCLA Faculty Association

News and opinion from Dan Mitchell since 2009

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Sunday, December 21, 2025

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 104



From the [Harvard Crimson](#): *The Trump administration appealed a September ruling ordering the return of nearly \$2.7 billion in frozen research funds to Harvard, according to a notice of appeal submitted [December 18]. The appeal, filed in the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts, follows through on the Trump administration's promise to challenge the Sept. 3 decision by District Judge Allison D. Burroughs, which granted Harvard sweeping summary judgement on constitutional grounds.*

In a brief filing, lawyers for the Department of Justice said it would challenge final judgements in two cases — one brought by Harvard and another

filed by the Harvard faculty chapter of the American Association of University Professors. The appeal sends the case to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit and formally begins the next phase of a legal battle that Burroughs previously decided largely in Harvard's favor.

...If the federal government loses in its appeal to the First Circuit, its last hope is the Supreme Court, where the Trump administration may find more sympathy for its arguments. The Court's conservative supermajority has frequently defended exertions of executive power by the Trump administration...

Federal law does not impose a deadline for the First Circuit to act on the appeal, and because the government appealed from a final judgement, the court does not have discretion to decline review...

The federal government and Harvard are currently in talks over a potential settlement to their months-long conflict, which would entail a payment as large as \$500 million in exchange for the restoration of funds and a resolution to ongoing investigations. No details of an agreement have been finalized.

Full story at <https://www.thecrimson.com/article/2025/12/19/trump-admin-appeal-funding/>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:10 AM](#) No comments:

Labels: [Harvard](#), [politics](#)

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Other Faculty Organizations

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Topics

From the [Santa Monica Lookout](#): The vast majority of Santa Monica College (SMC) students weren't born the last time the school failed to rank as the number one transfer college to the California University system. ...College officials announced SMC topped the transfer list for the 35th year in a row, keeping alive a streak that started when George H.W. Bush was president and the first episode of *The Simpsons* aired on Fox. According to transfer data released by the UC Information Center, 995 SMC students transferred to UC campuses in 2024-2025, with 214 of the transfer students Latino and 59 Black.



UCLA remained the most popular campus for SMC transfers, with 437 students headed to the Westwood campus, while UC San Diego and UC Santa Barbara ranked second and third, with 162 and 112 SMC transfer students respectively...

Full story at https://santamonicalookout.com/ssm_site/the_lookout/news/News-2025/December-2025/12_12_2025_SMC_Top_in_UC_Transfers_for_35th_Straight_Year.html.

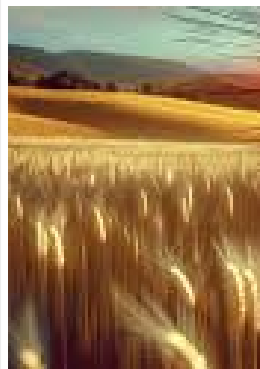
Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:30 AM](#) No comments:

Labels: [community colleges](#), [Santa Monica College](#), [UC](#), [UC-San Diego](#), [UC-Santa Barbara](#), [UCLA](#)

Straws in the Wind - Part 197

From [Inside Higher Ed](#): The legal battle over whether Virginia governor Glenn Youngkin's university board appointees will take their seats is over after a judge set a trial for 2026, *Virginia Business* reported. Governor-elect Abigail Spanberger will assume office next month, rendering the lawsuit moot.

The case will be dismissed, shutting down an effort to install the Republican governor's board picks, many of whom had previously worked for or donated to the GOP and were rejected by Virginia Democrats. Now Spanberger, a Democrat, will be able to name 22 board members that otherwise would have been appointed by Youngkin, giving her the opportunity to shift the political balance of boards away from the right...



Full story at <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/quick-takes/2025/12/11/youngkin-loses-battle-over-board-picks>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:20 AM](#) No comments:

Labels: [politics](#), [U of Virginia](#)

Blank Check?



LA Times sports columnist continues to gush about all the support for UCLA football that is being promised by Chancellor Frenk:

...It's believed that the last UCLA chancellor to speak at a coach's introduction was Albert Carnesale in

2003 upon the hiring of Karl Dorrell. All of which makes Frenk's appearance, not to mention his speaking for nearly five minutes... inside a Luskin Center ballroom, all the more extraordinary. Frenk was there to welcome Bob Chesney, the new football coach who has quickly galvanized a long-suffering fan base with his passion and willingness to immediately poke rival USC by proclaiming that UCLA would soon become "the school in town." ...

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"Athletics are the front porch of the university, one of the most visible signals of what we stand for," Frenk said. "Athletics connect us across generations and geographies with students and alumni, friends as well as strangers. These things are extremely important and help build community and all of that is coming true at UCLA." There was also a reference to one word — alignment — that athletic director Martin Jarmond and Chesney would later echo in their remarks. "Winning in college football requires a unified approach across all of the university — university leadership and athletics are aligned and committed to doing the right things to build a winning program," Frenk said.

Jarmond suggested that Frenk was willing to help in a way that his predecessor was not — a slightly curious idea given Block's willingness to support the move to the Big Ten Conference and approve Jarmond's contract extension, but it seemed that Jarmond's larger point was about increased institutional support for the football program under the new chancellor...

Source: <https://www.latimes.com/sports/ucla/newsletter/2025-12-15/b Bruins-julio-frenk>.

The problem is that when "institutional support" is translated into money, there are real risks. NIL has become pay-for-play. Breaking a contractual commitment to Pasadena for using the Rose Bowl in the end is doable - provided enough money can be provided for the litigation and buyout. The tax to Berkeley for UCLA's move to the Big Ten must be paid according to a regental fiat. What broadcast rights will provide in the future - and who will provide payments for such rights* - is uncertain. (Any contracts there can also be broken.)

I don't know about you, but blank checks make me nervous.

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*It was recently announced that the Oscars are moving from broadcast TV to YouTube.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:10 AM](#) No comments: 

Labels: [athletics](#), [UCLA](#)

Friday, December 19, 2025

Another Day; Another Academic Shooting - Postscript

From the [NY Times](#): *Federal prosecutors in Massachusetts said Thursday that they had connected the killings of two Brown University students and an M.I.T. professor to a man who was found dead in a storage unit in New Hampshire. Claudio Neves Valente, 48, went to a storage facility in Salem, N.H., shortly after he shot Nuno F.G. Loureiro, the M.I.T. professor who was found dead in his home in Brookline, Mass., on Tuesday, the authorities said. Three days earlier, Mr. Neves Valente had opened fire in an auditorium at Brown University in Providence, R.I., killing two students. He died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound, the authorities said...*

...Mr. Neves Valente, a Portuguese national, entered the United States on a student visa in 2000 and became a permanent resident in 2017, according to the Providence police. Leah Foley, the U.S. attorney in Massachusetts, said she believed that Mr. Neves Valente knew Dr. Loureiro from their time in the same academic program in Portugal from 1995 to 2000. Dr. Loureiro earned his bachelor's degree in physics from the Instituto Superior Técnico in Lisbon, according to his M.I.T. profile.

Mr. Neves Valente's motive for the shooting at Brown University remained unclear, Peter F. Neronha, Rhode Island's attorney general, said on Thursday. Mr. Neves Valente was briefly enrolled in a graduate physics program at Brown from the fall of 2000 to the spring of 2001, according to Christina Paxson, the university's president. The authorities said there was no indication that Mr. Neves Valente knew... the two Brown students who were killed...

Full story at <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/12/19/us/brown-mit-shootings-what-we-know.html>.

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Note: Prior posts on these events are at:

<https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2025/12/brown-u-shooting.html> (contains link to the UCLA active shooter training video) and

<https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2025/12/another-day-another-academic-shooting.html>.



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The Way We Live Now

From the [Daily Bruin](#): *UCLA is asking community members to inform UCPD if immigration officers enter or are expected to enter campus to execute federal immigration orders. The university issued the notice in a... BruinPost [see below], noting in the message that it has "no indication or reports" suggesting immigration enforcement operations will occur on campus. The BruinPost also advised community members "responding to or having contact with an immigration officer executing a federal immigration order" to immediately contact UCPD, as well as campus counsel.*

Steve Lurie, the associate vice chancellor for campus and community safety, said in an interview Thursday that the university will notify students and staff if it can confirm immigration enforcement officers are on campus and performing immigration enforcement activities. He added that the notification would be a campuswide email and not a BruinALERT, noting that the university saves such alerts "for emergencies or danger to campus."

...Lurie also said the notifications would not be preemptive or "a real-time notification that immigration authorities are in a certain place on campus," adding that such alerts could be considered obstruction of justice...

Full story at <https://dailybruin.com/2025/12/11/ucla-shares-immigration-enforcement-policies-procedures-in-accordance-with-ca-law>.

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Dear Bruin Community:

With the passage SB 98 (2025) and the continuing practice of AB 21 (2017), state law requires that you be notified of several policies and procedures in place with regard to possible immigration enforcement on campus. These laws require both the California State University and the California Community Colleges, and requests the University of California, to establish various policies and procedures on our campuses to foster a campus environment that is safe and inclusive for all members of our community, regardless of immigration status. This includes a notification when the presence of immigration enforcement is confirmed on campus.

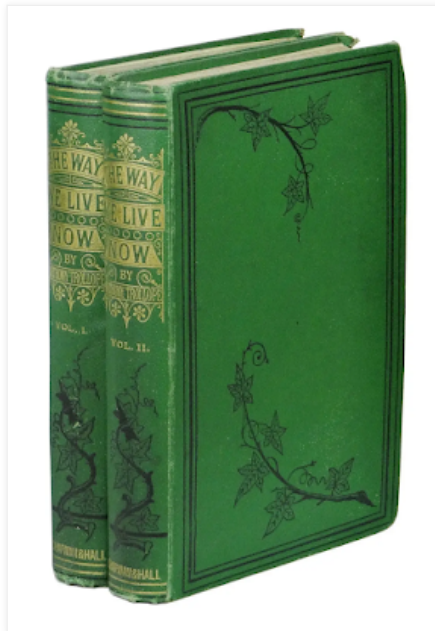
We have no indication or reports that such activities will occur on our campus. However, we want the campus to be aware of UC's position and our intentions regarding communicating with the campus community.

It is important to note that federal immigration agencies can and do enter campus for non-enforcement activities, which can include recruitment and activities related to normal immigration visa processing. The below procedures and information relate only to immigration enforcement activities.

Associate Vice Chancellor and Chief Safety Officer Steve Lurie will host informational sessions with the campus in the new year to share more about SB98 and how UCLA will implement the new legal requirement.

For a broader overview of UC's policies and procedures relating to undocumented members of our community, please see UC's Statement of Principles in Support of Undocumented Members of the UC Community, reissued in January 2025, and Frequently Asked Questions for University Employees about Possible Federal Immigration Enforcement Actions on University Property.

For up-to-date information for our campus, please visit Federal Updates for the UCLA Community.



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Please review the following to ensure awareness and preparedness in the event of immigration enforcement activity on campus:

1. Please notify UCPD at 310-825-1491 as soon as possible if you are advised that an immigration officer is expected to enter, will enter or has entered the campus to execute a federal immigration order.
2. Students, academic employees and staff responding to or having contact with an immigration officer executing a federal immigration order should contact UCPD at 310-825-1491 and campus counsel at 310-825-3828 for purposes of verifying the legality of any warrant, court order or subpoena. Inform the officer that you are not obstructing their access but are following campus protocol.
3. UCLA Student Affairs, Academic Affairs and Personnel and Employee and Labor Relations are available as contacts if you are or may be subject to an immigration order or inquiry on campus. Unless permitted by federal and state education privacy laws, these designees are prohibited from discussing your personal information, including immigration status, with or revealing that personal information to anyone. Please contact:
 - Students: Dean@saonet.ucla.edu
 - Academic employees: apoSB98notice@conet.ucla.edu
 - Staff: Employee.Relations@chr.ucla.edu
4. For more information about your legal rights in an immigration enforcement situation, please consult no-cost counsel at the UC Immigrant Legal Services Center; this Know your Rights Card; and these flyers for students and flyers for employees, including student workers.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Source: <https://view.bp.e.ucla.edu/?qs=1e5145dc4a79056cb89be04cd1880c3ad8af40d879750742cb392c4a446c34176911315c70f9237bcdcb47339cf44aae795f8ba12c8c910f1c2a4567b5428b9cd69b3d613539d1a77c0d52a322d308a42e245294e39e0e8>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:30 AM](#) No comments: 

Labels: [diversity](#), [UCLA](#)

Straws in the Wind - Part 196

From the Wall St. Journal: *After years of misfires, artificial-intelligence hacking tools have become dangerously good. So good that they are even surpassing some human hackers, according to a novel experiment conducted recently at Stanford University. A Stanford team spent a good chunk of the past year tinkering with an AI bot called Artemis. It takes a similar approach to Chinese hackers who had been using Anthropic's generative AI software to break into major corporations and foreign governments. Artemis scans the network, finds potential bugs—software vulnerabilities—and then finds ways to exploit them.*

Then the Stanford researchers let Artemis out of the lab, using it to find bugs in a real-world computer network—the one used by Stanford's own engineering department. And to make things interesting, they pitted Artemis against real-world professional hackers, known as penetration testers.

...The AI bot trounced all except one of the 10 professional network penetration testers the Stanford researchers had hired to poke and prod, but not actually break into, their engineering network. Artemis found bugs at lightning speed and it was cheap: It cost just under \$60 an hour to run. Ragan says that human pen testers typically charge between \$2,000 and \$2,500 a day. But Artemis wasn't perfect. About 18% of its bug reports were false positives. It also completely missed an obvious bug that most of the human testers spotted in a webpage...

Full story at <https://www.wsj.com/tech/ai/ai-hackers-are-coming-dangerously-close-to-beating-humans-4afc3ad6>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:20 AM](#) No comments: 

Labels: [email fraud](#), [Stanford](#)

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